

**Apparatus and Method for Generating an Encrypted Data  
stream and Apparatus and Method for Generating a Decrypted  
Audio and/or Video Signal**

5

Abstract

An apparatus (10) for generating an encrypted data stream representing an audio and/or video signal comprises an encoder (16) for encoding an input signal (12) to generate a data stream with a predefined data stream syntax as output signal. The apparatus further comprises an encryption means (18) coupled with the decoder (16) in order to influence encoder internal data (20a) and/or the output signal (20b) of the encoder in a uniquely reversible manner based on a key such that the generated encrypted data stream comprises payload information differing from payload information of a data stream that would be generated by the apparatus without the presence of an encryption means and that the generated encrypted data stream comprises the predefined data stream syntax. Thereby, a flexible data stream encryption is achieved, wherein the degree of encryption can be freely selected such that the owner of a decoder who does not possess the key, still obtains a rough idea of the audio and/or video signal which might cause him to buy the key in order to hear or view the audio and/or video signal in its full quality. The encoder-specific encryption and decryption concept can be implemented into already existing encoders/decoders with little effort.